

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An infusion beverage package comprising:

a body portion comprising overlying layers of porous material that are joined to form at least one compartment, said at least one compartment carrying infusion beverage product in addition to a weight that causes said body portion to sink in water.

2. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one compartment carries an agent that imparts flavor ~~characteristics~~ into a solution during steeping of said infusion beverage product.

3. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said overlying layers of porous material are joined together by one of thermal welding ~~technique~~, compression ~~techniques~~, folding ~~techniques~~ or and stitching ~~techniques~~ to form said at least one compartment.

4. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one compartment comprises a first compartment distinct from a second compartment, said first compartment carrying infusion beverage product and said second compartment carrying said weight.

5. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said weight comprises a material that is non-toxic, insoluble, odorless and flavorless material.

6. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said weight comprises a ~~microwave-compatible~~ material that can be heated by microwave radiation in a microwave oven without significant degradation.

7. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 6, wherein:

said ~~microwave-compatible~~ material is selected from the group consisting of ceramic ~~material~~, porcelain ~~material~~, and naturally-occurring rock ~~material~~.

8. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said weight comprises a dissolvable agent.

9. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 8, wherein:

said dissolvable agent comprises a sweetener.

10. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said porous material comprises a sheet of fibrous cellulosic material.

11. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said porous material withstands ~~is adapted to withstand~~ immersion into boiling water without damage or disintegration in addition to being non-toxic, odorless and flavorless.

12. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 2, wherein:

said agent is selected from the group consisting ~~comprises one~~ of sugar and a sugar substitute.

13. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, further comprising:

a string having a first end opposite a second end, wherein the first end is anchored to said body portion; and

a tag affixed to said second end of said string.

14. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 13, wherein:

said tag carries product indicia.

15. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, further comprising:

two body portions that extend from a hinged interface.

16. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 15, further comprising:

a bottom wall that extends between the two body portions, said bottom wall and two body portions defining a space for solution to flow through during steeping, and wherein said bottom wall has a compartment for carrying said weight.

17. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 16, wherein:

said bottom wall is foldable ~~to enable encapsulation in a small package.~~

18. (original) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said infusion beverage product is selected from the group consisting of tea and coffee.

19. (currently amended) An infusion beverage package according to claim 1, wherein:

said infusion beverage product is selected from the group consisting of soups, powdered milk, medicinal preparations, food seasonings, and dyes ~~and the like.~~